

I am a flight attendant for American Eagle Airlines. I cannot believe that the use of cell phones is so urgent a need that passengers must use them during the flights. As it is, I consider the use of cell phones prior to flight a serious detriment to the passengers' safety. Part of my duties is to see that passengers are informed about safety equipment and procedures. As it is now, passengers are allowed to use cell phones before we close the door to taxi out. All too often, it is obvious that many passengers are totally ignoring me as I perform this duty, and frequently can barely be heard by passengers near them as they conduct their conversations.

Please instead of allowing cell phones in flight, inform the public that due to concerns for their safety, cell phones must be turned off as the plane is boarded.

If this bill does pass, passengers will be further distracted from hearing information that is vital to their safety and my job will have gotten that much harder. Again, please don't compromise safety just to indulge the public. No one will benefit from this bill except the phone service providers.